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Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products February 2013

The U.S. Census Bureau announced today that preliminary February steel imports were **\$2.2 billion** (**2.2 million** metric tons) compared to the preliminary January totals of \$2.5 billion (2.3 million metric tons).

The February change in steel imports based on metric tonnage reflected decreases primarily in oil country goods and hot rolled sheets and increases primarily in blooms, billets, and slabs. Decreases occurred primarily with Korea and Canada. Increases occurred primarily with Brazil, Russia, and Taiwan.

The year to date final statistics through January 2013 showed steel imports of 2.4 million metric tons compared with 2.6 million metric tons through January 2012. The largest commodity decreases occurred primarily in blooms, billets, and slabs and increases occurred primarily in hot galvanized sheets and strips. The largest country decreases occurred primarily with Russia. Increases occurred primarily with China and Brazil.

Notes:

The data in this report are preliminary and subject to revisions.

Analysis of recent months for steel product imports indicates the value of preliminary data should equal about 96 percent of the final value reported in the regular monthly trade statistics report. Preliminary data reported for individual steel categories and at the individual country of origin level have been less consistently predictive of the final data reported in the regular monthly trade statistics. For further details, visit the Foreign Trade Division web site at www.census.gov/trade. On the website, you can access product by country and country by product tables.

The next release is April 23, 2013.